

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A rigid animal tether assembly comprising:

- a) a rigid outwardly extending tie section and a rigid inwardly extending tilt section, said tie section including tie means for tethering an animal at a distal end section thereof and being connected at an opposing coupling end section thereof to an open outer end of said tilt section; and
- b) base means including base surface means for contiguously mating with an open inner end of the rigid tilt section;
- c) said coupling end section of the rigid tie section including means for connecting biasing means to said coupling end section inside said tilt section for drawing the rigid tie section under tension in a direction toward said base surface means;
- d) said biasing means being effective to urge said base surface means against the open inner end of the tilt section with an amount of force sufficient to project the rigid tie section coupled to the outer end of the tilt section in a direction outwardly from said base surface means.

2. A tether assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein

said base means includes base joining means for tiltably uniting the inner end of the tilt section to the base surface means to enable the tie section to tilt together with the tilt section with respect to the base surface means when an animal is tethered to said distal end section of the tie section .

3. A tether assembly as defined in claim 2, wherein

said base joining means includes alignment means for registering the tilt section with respect to the base surface means and around the biasing means.

4. A tether assembly as defined in claim 3, wherein

said alignment means includes seating means juxtaposed the inner end of the tilt section for positioning the inner open end of the tilt section with respect to the base surface means and the biasing means,

said tilt section being effective to tiltably move with respect to the seating means and base surface means.

5. A tether assembly as defined in claim 4, wherein

said seating means includes removably mounted cap means having a hub portion directed inwardly into the open inner end of the tilt section, and flange means contiguously disposed on the base means around said hub portion against which the inner end of the tilt section is tiltably seated.

6. A tether assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein

said distal end section of the tie section includes a resilient end cap member and a movably mounted ring means for releasably attaching an animal tether lead.

7. A tether assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein

said coupling end section of the tie section includes plug means for frictionally fitting the open outer end of the tilt section to link the tie section to the tilt section.

8. A tether assembly as defined in claim 7, wherein  
said plug means includes shoulder means against which the outer end of the tilt section abuts  
when frictionally fitted to the plug means.
9. A tether assembly as defined in claim 7, wherein  
said plug means includes means for fastening one end of the biasing means to said tie section  
, and said base joining means includes means for linking the other end of the biasing means to the  
base surface means.
10. A tether assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein  
said coupling end section of the tie section includes plug means for fixing the open outer end  
of the tilt section to said coupling end section of the tie section ,  
said biasing means includes a tension-loaded spring member,  
said plug means includes means for fastening one end of the spring member to said tie  
section , and said base means includes attachment means for linking the other end of the spring  
member to the base surface means.
11. A tether assembly as defined in claim 10, wherein  
said attachment means includes an elongated threaded rod means for connecting said other  
end of the spring member to the base surface means, and tightening means for threadingly engaging  
the threaded rod means to adjust the amount of tension in the spring member.

12. A tether assembly as defined in claim 10, wherein

said base surface means includes removable cap means for registering the tilt section around the spring member, said cap means being effective to enable the tie section to tilt together with the tilt section with respect to the base surface means when an animal is tethered to said distal end section of the tie section .

13. A tether assembly as defined in claim 10, wherein

said base surface means includes seating means having an inwardly directed portion disposed within the open inner end of the tilt section,

said seating means being effective to allow said tilt section to tilt with respect to the base surface means.

14. A tether assembly for use with a trailer, said assembly comprising:

a) a rigid outwardly extending tie section and a rigid inwardly extending tilt section, said tie section including tie means for tethering an animal at a distal end section thereof being connected at an opposing coupling end section thereof to an open outer end of said tilt section; and

b) base means including assembly support means for mounting the tether assembly to said trailer, and base surface means for contiguously mating with an open inner end of the rigid tilt section;

c) said base surface means including base connector means for removably attaching the base surface means to said assembly support means, and

d) said assembly support means including base receiver means for removably receiving

said base connector means;

- e) said coupling end section of the rigid tie section including coupling means for connecting an outer end of a spring member to said coupling end section inside said tilt section for drawing the rigid tie section under tension in a direction towards said base surface means;
- f) said spring member being effective to urge said base surface means against the open inner end of the tilt section with an amount of force sufficient to project the rigid tie section coupled to the outer end of the tilt section in a direction outwardly from said base surface means;
- g) said base surface means including base joining means for tiltably uniting the inner end of the tilt section to the base surface means so that the tie section may tilt together with the tilt section with respect to the base surface means when an animal is tethered to said distal end section of the tie section ;
- h) said base joining means including alignment means for registering the tilt section with respect to the base surface means and around the spring member;
- i) said spring member being connected at an inner end thereof to an elongated threaded rod means for releasably connecting the spring member to said base surface means, and
- j) tightening means for threadingly engaging said rod means, said tightening means is effective to forcibly draw the tilt section against the base surface means and to adjust the amount of tension in the spring member.

15. A tether assembly as defined in claim 14, wherein

said base connector means includes cylindrical post means for rotatable disposition within said base receiver means to rotatably mount the base surface means to the assembly support means.

16. A tether assembly for use with a trailer, said assembly comprising:

- a) an outwardly extending tie section including means for tethering an animal at a distal end section thereof and a cylindrical base connector portion at an inner end thereof;
- b) base support means for mounting the tether assembly to said trailer;
- c) said base support means including a cylindrical base receiver portion effective to removably and rotatably receive said base connector portion for removably attaching the tie section to said support means; and
- d) bushing means disposed between the base connector portion and the base receiver portion for allowing said connector and receiver portions to quietly and smoothly rotate with respect to each other.

17. A tether assembly as defined in claim 16, wherein

said base receiver portion has a first vertical length and said base connector portion has a second vertical length longer than said first vertical length that forms a downwardly directed end section that projects below said base receiver portion when the base connector portion is disposed within said base receiver portion,

said connector end section includes removably mounted means for maintaining the base connector portion within the base receiver portion and the selective removal of the base connector portion from the base receiver portion.

18. A tether assembly as defined in claim 16, wherein

said base receiver portion has a first vertical length and said base connector portion has a vertical length sufficient to rotate within said base receiver portion when the base connector portion is disposed within said base receiver portion,

said base support means includes removably mounted pin means for selectively precluding rotation and removal of the base connector portion from the base receiver portion.

19. A tether assembly as defined in claim 16, wherein

said bushing means includes at least one bushing member split generally lengthwise to cylindrically expand and resiliently grasp the cylindrical base connector portion that is rotatably disposed within said base receiver portion.

20. A tether assembly as defined in claim 16, wherein

said bushing means includes two bushing members each split generally lengthwise to cylindrically expand when disposed on said base connector portion and resiliently grasp the connector portion at each end of base receiver portion when the connector portion is rotatably disposed within said base receiver portion.